

# ELABorations



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau  
800-821-7284 [www.lab.hhs.mt.gov](http://www.lab.hhs.mt.gov)

November 2010

## “Consumer Notice – Lead and Copper Rule”

The end of the year marks the deadline for Community and Non-Transient Non-Community public water systems (PWS) with reduced lead and copper schedules to complete “lead consumer notice”. The short term revisions to the lead and copper rule require all systems to provide customers who occupy homes or buildings that are part of the system’s monitoring program with the lead and copper results from their drinking water. Thirty days after the system receives lead and copper results customers must be notified and a copy of the notice sent to the state within 3 months of the monitoring period. Consumer notice forms and lead and copper tap sample instructions are available on-line at [www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/pws/leadcopper.mcp.x](http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/pws/leadcopper.mcp.x).

**Laboratories can help** PWS’s comply with this requirement by reminding systems when they bring in lead and copper samples. Also, this will make sample site identification imperative to helping the PWS notify the correct person with their specific results. Please ensure that clients fill in sample site location information on their chain of custody and transmit this data to DEQ.

If you have questions, contact **Margarite Thomas**, DEQ Lead & Copper Rule Specialist, 444-3967 or [mthomas4@mt.gov](mailto:mthomas4@mt.gov).

## Drinking Water System Waiver Update

With the end of a 9-year cycle rapidly approaching in December 2010, it is time for all water systems with waivers to complete the necessary requirements if they would like to continue reduced monitoring through the next 9-year cycle. Requirements for waiver renewal are listed below.

**Asbestos** – A letter will be sent out to all systems regarding the asbestos waiver in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011. Renewal of the asbestos waiver will be granted based on the systems meeting the requirements outlined in the letter.

**Phase 2-5 inorganics** – Phase 2-5 waivers will be automatically renewed if the system samples within the first 3-year period of the 9-year cycle (January 1, 2010- December 31, 2013). Systems that don’t sample within the first 3-year period will receive a violation letter for failure to monitor and will lose their existing phase 2-5 waiver.

**Organic VOC’s & SOC’s** - Systems with a 9-year waiver will be switched back to 3 year monitoring schedules in 2011. Renewals will be granted only after an updated Use Assessment Form or Susceptibility Assessment Form and analytical results for samples collected between 01/01/2011 and 12/31/2013 have been received by DEQ.

To maintain their waiver, systems must complete the following requirements in the second and third periods of the 9-year cycle:

- 1) Submit an updated Use Assessment Form or Susceptibility Assessment Form to DEQ.
- 2) Meet Public Notice requirements (stating that the system will not monitor for the analytes granted in the waiver).

If you have any questions, please contact **Ben Schendel**, PE, DEQ Chemical and Radiological Rule Manager, 444-6741

## “BRIDGES”

This is an Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) sponsored publication that connects the Nation’s Environmental Laboratories. Some of the articles in the most recent issue include:

- ◆ Improving Environmental LIMS Implementation and Data Exchange Capability
- ◆ The Trim Tab Effect: Influencing the Environmental Laboratory Community
- ◆ State Revolving Fund: A Financial Source for Environmental Laboratories

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